

REMARKS

Claims 32 and 34 now specify that the ceramic has a crystalline matrix. Claim 34 now further specifies that the ceramic is formed by compacting the metal oxide powders to agglomerate the metal oxide powders.

It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims recite subject matter which was previously considered by the examiner and argued by the applicants to be inherent in the claims, and it is now being made explicit in the claims. The amendments were not earlier presented because it was believed that the elements were inherent the claims.

The amendments to the claims are supported by the original disclosure, in Example 3. Claim elements can be supported in the specification through inherent disclosure. See MPEP 2163, particularly section II.A.3.(b). It is respectfully submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the ceramic of Example 3 has a crystalline matrix and that the metal oxide powders are agglomerated. No new matter is presented.

Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested. The claims are not anticipated because Kelly '640 does not disclose a ceramic having a crystalline matrix. Furthermore, Kelly '640 does not disclose a method wherein the metal oxide powders are compacted and agglomerated; instead the crystalline reinforcement particles, e.g., alumina or zirconia, are dispersed throughout the composite of Kelly '640.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form or procedure in an effort to advance this application to allowance, the examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney at the indicated number.

Dated: September 24, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By /Michael Muczynski/ 48,642

Michael Muczynski

Registration No.: 48,642

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300

Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357

(312) 474-6300

Attorney for Applicant